

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4639

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

UNCLAS ADDIS ABABA 3980

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ET, PINT, PFOR

SUBJECT: ETHIOPIA EXPLAINS HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOREIGN
AFFAIRS TO VISITING JOURNALISTS

SUMMARY: TAKING ADVANTAGE PRESENCE LARGE CONTINGENT
INTERNATIONAL PRESS COVERING JUNE 25 MILITIA PARADE,
ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER AND PMAC SPOKESMAN SPELLED OUT
TO JOURNALISTS AT LENGTH EPMG VIEWS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS. UNITED STATES CHARGED WITH MASSIVE
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AT HOME AND ABROAD. U.S.
INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM AND ARAB REACTION OPERATING
THROUGH INSTRUMENTALITIES OF SOMALIA, SUDAN, AND EGYPT
ACCUSED OF CHALLENGING ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION AND COMMITTING
OPEN AGGRESSION AGAINST ETHIOPIA ON TWO FRONTS.

END SUMMARY.

1. JUNE 25 ETHIOPIAN HERALD CARRIED SUBSTANCE TWO PRESS
BRIEFINGS TO INTERNATIONAL PRESS INVITED ADDIS ABABA BY
EPMG TO COVER PEASANT MILITIA PARADE. IN COURSE OF
TWO-HOUR BRIEFING AT MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MOFA),
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MAJOR DAWIT WOLDE-GIORGIS, MOFA PERMANENT SECRETARY
DECLARED, "NO POWER ON EARTH SHOULD PRESUME ITSELF CAPABLE
OF DEFLECTING US FROM DEFENDING REVOLUTION, NATIONAL
UNITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY". DAWIT TOLD JOURNALISTS THAT
PARADE SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS THREAT TO NEIGHBORING
COUNTRIES, BUT "HAVING EXHAUSTED OUR PATIENCE AND SELF-
RESTRAINT WE WOULD LIKE WHOLE WORLD TO KNOW OUR REVOLUTION

HAS COME TO STAY AND WE WILL DEFEND IT TO LAST MAN, SINCE IMPERIALISM AND ARAB REACTION HAVE COMBINED TO CHALLENGE REVOLUTION BY COMMITTING OPEN AGGRESSION ON TWO FRONTS THROUGH INSTRUMENTALITY OF SOMALIA AND SUDAN, THERE NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE BUT TO DEFEND OURSELVES." IN MORE SPECIFIC ATTACK, DAWIT DECLARED THAT UNTIL "1960 ON SOMALI NATION OR STATE HAD EVER EXISTED ON FACE OF EARTH", THEREFORE ETHIOPIA COULD NOT HAVE PARTITIONED SOMALIA (AS CHARGED BY SOMALIA) IN COLLUSION WITH OTHER COLONIAL POWERS. AS FOR SUDAN AND EGYPT, DAWIT CLAIMED "EVEN NOW NIMEIRI'S MERCENARIES WITH FULL COMBAT SUPPORT FROM SUDANESE AND EGYPTION REGULAR TROOPS ARE COMMITTING DIRECT AGGRESSION AGAINST ETHIOPIA."

2. FINALLY, COMMENTING ON FACT THAT U.S. HAS BEEN IN FOREFRONT OF CAMPAIGN DENOUNCING ETHIOPIAN HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, DAWIT ENUMERATED VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY U.S. AROUND THE WORLD, DESCRIBING THESE AS "UNIVERSAL DISREGARD FOR FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS OF ALL PEOPLES."

3. PROVISIONAL MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL (PMAC) MEMBER IN CHARGE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS, PETTY OFFICER TAMARAT FEREDÉ, TOLD JOURNALISTS SAME DAY THAT ETHIOPIA DESIRED NO TERRITORY OF OTHER COUNTRIES, BUT WOULD DEFEND OWN UNITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. ON HUMAN RIGHTS TAMARAT CHASTISED UNCLASSIFIED

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JOURNALISTS FOR NOT REPORTING MASSIVE INJUSTICES PERPETRATED BY PREVIOUS REGIME "AGAINST THE BROAD MASSES OF ETHIOPIA, TRUMPETING INSTEAD WILD PROPAGANDA AGAINST ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION". IN COURSE OF RAMBLING DESCRIPTION OF PROGRESS ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION, TAMRAT SAID ETHIOPIA CHOSE MARXISM-Leninism AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM BECAUSE THEY STAND FOR RIGHTS OF OPPRESSED PEOPLES.

4. JUNE 26 ETHIOPIAN HERALD CARRIED ARTICLE CASTIGATING "MULTIMILLIONAIRE JIMMY CARTER", CIA AND FBI FOR OPPRESSING HUMAN RIGHTS ABROAD AND IN U.S. ARTICLE CLAIMED CIA BEHIND MASSACRE OF INNOCENT PEOPLE IN SOUTH AMERICA, AFRICA AND ASIA AND TORTURE OF HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS AND PROGRESSIVE INDIVIDUALS WITH UP-TO-DATE ELECTRONIC APPARATUS. U.S. IS RIFE WITH "MISERY, UNEMPLOYMENT, PROSTITUTION, HOMOSEXUALITY, DRUG-ADDICTS, PICK-POCKETS, SHOP-LIFTERS, ASSASSINS AND EXPLOITATION OF OPPRESSED MASSES BY MONOPOLY CAPITALISTS". IN "U.S. 4,128,000 PEOPLE HAVE NO RUNNING WATER, 2,000,000 HAVE NO HEATING FACILITIES, 25,000,000 ARE BELOW POVERTY LINE AND 50,000,000 AMERICANS ARE ARMED DUE TO EXCESSIVE PRODUCTION OF WEAPONS BY MONOPOLY CAPITALISM, CAUSING HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF CRIME IN WORLD. ABSENTEEISM

IS 60 PERCENT IN AMERICAN ELECTIONS, DEMONSTRATING THAT LEADERS ARE NOT ONLY CORRUPT, BUT ALSO DO NOT KEEP ELECTION PROMISES." ARTICLE CONCLUDES WITH STATEMENT THAT "JIMMY CARTER'S LOUD CRIES ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS CAN'T MASK CRIMES OF US STATE MONOPOLY CAPITALISM.... WE DO NOT NEED TEACHERS, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO DO NOT PRACTICE WHAT THEY TRY TO TEACH."

6. COMMENT: ARTICLE AND SPEECHES REFLECT CONTINUING EPMG SENSITIVITY OVER ETHIOPIAN HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND PERHAPS INDICATE FEELING THAT THE BEST DEFENSE IS GOOD OFFENSE. DENOUNCEMENTS OF SUDAN, EGYPT, SOMALIA, ARAB REACTIONARIES AND US IMPERIALISM ARE STANDARD FARE EXPLAINING GOVERNMENT'S NEED TO FIGHT INSURGENTS, LIBERA-
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TION MOVEMENTS, DISSIDENTS AND SECESSION MOVEMENTS. MARXIST-LENINIST PHRASEOLOGY AND CONSISTENCY IS ASSUMING MORE STANDARD PATTERNS IN SPEECHES AND PRESS LANGUAGE, PERHAPS REFLECTING GROWING INFLUENCE OF SOVIET BLOC PROMPTERS.
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